

Stamford Public Schools

High School Graduation Requirements

Students in the Stamford Public Schools will meet the following graduation requirements:

1. Pass all district required courses for graduation, as posted in the District Program of Studies.
2. Take all sections of the CAPT test (No student will become a senior unless s/he takes all sections of the CAPT) and either
 - a. Pass the CAPT at proficient level, on the time line described below, or
 - b. Pass an alternative national standardized assessment at the proficient level, as identified in the Assessment section on the Reading, Writing, Math, and Science Requirements, attached, and on the time line described below, or
 - c. Meet the requirements of a district performance task(s) at the proficient level, as set forth on the Reading, Writing, Math, and Science Requirements, attached, and on the time line described below.

Time Line for Implementation:

Graduating Class of 2006: must pass 1 of 4 CAPT tests at proficient level, Band 3, or 1 of the alternate national standardized assessments, as described in the Assessment section of the Reading, Writing, and Science Requirements, attached, or 1 of the district performance tasks as set forth in the Reading, Writing, Math, and Science Requirements, attached.

Graduating Class of 2007: must pass 2 of 4 CAPT tests at proficient level, Band 3, or 2 of the alternate national standardized assessments, as described in the Assessment section of the Reading, Writing, and Science Requirements, attached, or 2 of the district performance tasks as set forth in the Reading, Writing, Math, and Science Requirements, attached.

Graduating Class of 2008: must pass 3 of 4 CAPT tests at proficient level, Band 3, or 3 of the alternate national standardized assessments, as described in the Assessment section of the Reading, Writing, and Science Requirements, attached, or 3 of the district performance tasks as set forth in the Reading, Writing, Math, and Science Requirements, attached.

Graduating Class of 2009: must pass 4 of 4 CAPT tests at proficient level, Band 3, or 4 of the alternate national standardized assessments, as described in the Assessment section of

the Reading, Writing, and Science Requirements, attached, or 4 of the district performance tasks as set forth in the Reading, Writing, Math, and Science Requirements, attached.

Adult Education: must pass alternate national standardized assessment(s) or district performance task(s) as described in Reading, Writing, Math, and Science Requirements, attached, according to the time line described above for Graduating Classes of 2006 (1 test or task), 2007 (2 tests or tasks), 2008 (3 tests or tasks), and 2009 (4 tests or tasks)

Schedule for Taking National Standardized Assessments/Passing District Performance Tasks:

10th Grade: CAPT, PSAT

11th Grade: CAPT, PSAT, SAT I, SAT II, ACT, TOEFL, AP, and district performance task(s) as set forth in the Reading, Writing, Math, and Science Requirements, attached.

12th Grade: CAPT, SAT I, SAT II, ACT, AP, TOEFL, and district performance task(s), as set forth in the Reading, Writing, Math, and Science Requirements, attached.

Adult Education: practice GED, CASAS, required CAPT course and district performance task(s) as set forth in the Reading, Writing, Math, and Science Requirements, attached.

Special Populations:

- Students who enter the Stamford Public Schools with less than 18 months of school remaining are required to meet the requirements of the alternate national standardized assessment(s), as described in the Assessment section of the Reading, Writing, Math, and Science Requirements, attached, or the district performance task(s), as set forth in the Reading, Writing, Math, and Science Requirements, attached.
- Students who qualify for the ESL or Bilingual program must meet the Graduation Requirements on the same terms and conditions as the rest of the students. ESL students will learn the skills needed to pass the CAPT, the alternate national standardized assessments, and the district performance tasks in their English as a Second Language classes. Bilingual students will learn the skills needed to pass the CAPT, the alternate national performance assessments, and the district performance tasks in their Bilingual classes.
- Requirements for Special Education students will be determined by the IEP.

Support for All Unsuccessful Students, including Special Populations:

1. Attend summer school and meet the Graduation Requirements.
2. Take a remediation course(s) and meet the Graduation Requirements. By January 10 of junior year, guidance counselors will notify each student who has not passed the CAPT or an alternate national assessment(s) or the district performance task(s) and his or her parent or guardian that the student must enroll in one or more of the following courses, depending upon the CAPT, alternate national assessment(s), or district performance task(s) that s/he has not yet passed:
 - a. CAPT English course to focus on Reading for Information, Response to Literature, and Writing across the Disciplines CAPT skills.
 - b. CAPT math course to focus on CAPT math skills.
 - c. CAPT science course to focus on CAPT science skills.

Students, including special populations, who do not meet the Graduation Requirements may select one of the following options:

1. Return in September as a fifth year student and meet the Graduation Requirements.
2. Enroll in summer school and meet the Graduation Requirements.
3. Enroll in courses at Stamford Adult Education and meet the Graduation Requirements.
4. Make arrangements for re-testing to meet the requirements of the district performance task(s), as set forth in the Reading, Writing, Math, and Science Requirements, attached.

Graduation Requirements will be reexamined yearly.

Stamford Public Schools
High School Graduation Requirements
In Reading

Assessment:

1. CAPT Reading at the Proficient Level [Band 3], or
2. Alternate National Standardized Assessment: SAT I Verbal at 400 Level, or SAT II Literature at 450 Level, or AP Language and Composition at the Level of 3, or AP U. S. History and Government at the Level of 3, or AP Literature at the Level of 3, or AP European History at the Level of 3, or
3. District Reading Performance Task (on both the Reading for Information and Response to Literature Assessments, as specified below)

Record Keeping: Guidance Counselors will track students' reaching of the graduation requirements and inform department heads in the appropriate disciplines as well as parents and guardians of students who have not yet passed the Graduation Requirements.

Reading Skills That Students Must Demonstrate in Order to Graduate:

1. In the following content area courses: (social studies, business, world language, health, art, and/or music):

- Use evidence from the nonfiction work to draw a conclusion
- Identify the author's purpose
- Evaluate information in the nonfiction work
- Synthesize and apply information from a nonfiction work

All content area course teachers are expected to assess students' ability to read for information based on the CAPT Reading for Information Rubric, with a passing score of 1, on the 0-1-2 CAPT rubric.

Any content area course teacher may submit the discipline's scored Reading for Information assessment, scored at the passing level. Both the test and the scored rubric will be filed in the student's locked cumulative folder.

2. In English courses:

- Understands the basic elements of a story (characters, conflict, resolution)
- Uses clues from the story to make inferences, infer motives, and generalize beyond the story
- Generalizes beyond the story to identify the theme
- Makes connections between the story and real life

English teachers will use the CAPT Response to Literature Rubric to assess students' ability to read fiction, with a passing score of 4 on the 1-2-3-4-5-6 CAPT rubric.

The English teacher will submit the discipline's scored Response to Literature assessment. Both the test and the scored rubric will be filed in the student's locked cumulative folder.

**Stamford Public Schools
High School Graduation Requirements
In Writing**

Assessment:

1. CAPT Interdisciplinary Test (at Proficient Level [Band 3]) or
2. SAT II Writing (at Level of 500) in Writing or
3. District Performance Based Writing Assessment (at Level of 4 On a Scale of 1-6)

Record Keeping: Guidance Counselors will track students' reaching of the graduation requirements and inform department heads of the appropriate disciplines as well as parents and guardians of students who have not yet passed the requirements.

Writing Skills That Students Must Demonstrate in Order to Graduate:

- Maintains an annual portfolio of writing (Grades 9, 10, 11, & 12) in English class to meet the following requirements with the scored rubric to be stored by guidance counselors in student's cumulative folder:
 - Writes in 2 different genres (for example, research paper, cause and effect essay, persuasive essay, literary essay, personal narrative, e.g. college essay, etc.)
 - Includes graded writing in 2 different disciplines
 - Includes all the stages of the writing process for 1 piece of writing (planning, composing, shaping, choosing)
 - Includes self-selected pieces of writing from 2 disciplines
 - Reflects on growth or progress toward writing goals
- Writes an essay that meets the following requirements*:
 - Presents and maintains a controlling idea or focus
 - Organizes ideas logically so that the reader can follow
 - Provides relevant evidence to support all ideas
 - Explains and elaborates so that the reader feels satisfied with the amount of information provided
 - Follows the conventions of standard written English

*This essay may be written in any course, with the essay and the scored rubric submitted by the teacher to the guidance counselor to be stored in the student's locked cumulative folder. All English and content area teachers (social studies, science, business, world languages, health, art, music) are expected to assess students' ability to write an essay based on the CAPT Persuasive Writing Rubric.

High School Graduation Requirements Science

Assessment: CAPT Science at the Proficient Level [Band 3], SAT II score at 500 Level in a science discipline (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), AP Science score at Level 3 (Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics), or the District Science Performance Task score at 8 using the Focused Holistic Scoring Rubric for Open-Ended Items included below:

	Description	Scoring Range
Item 1	A clear statement of the problem	0-3
Item 2	A description of the experiment	0-3
Item 3	The results of the experiment	0-3
Item 4	The conclusions of the experiment	0-3

Score 3

The response is an excellent answer to the question. It is correct, complete, and appropriate and contains elaboration, extension, and/or evidence of higher-order thinking and relevant prior knowledge. There is no evidence of misconceptions. Minor errors will not necessarily lower the score.

Score 2

The response is a proficient answer to the question. It is generally correct, complete, and appropriate although minor inaccuracies may appear. There may be limited evidence of elaboration, extension, higher-order thinking, and relevant prior knowledge, or there may be significant evidence of these traits but other flaws (e.g., inaccuracies, omissions, inappropriateness) may be more than minor.

Score 1

The response is a marginal answer to the question. While it may contain some elements of a proficient response, it is inaccurate, incomplete and/or inappropriate. There is little if any evidence of elaboration, extension, higher-order thinking or relevant prior knowledge. There may be evidence of significant misconceptions.

Score 0

The response, although on topic, is an unsatisfactory answer to the question. It may fail to address the question, or it may address the question in a very limited way. There may be no evidence of elaboration, extension, higher-order thinking, or relevant prior knowledge. There may be evidence of serious misconceptions.

Record Keeping: Guidance Counselors will track students' reaching of graduation requirements and inform department heads of the appropriate disciplines of students who have not yet passed the requirements.

High School Graduation Requirements Mathematics

Requirements: Must have three years of high school mathematics.

Assessment: CAPT Mathematics at the Proficient Level [Band 3], SAT II score at 450 Level in a mathematics discipline, SAT I Mathematics at 400 level, AP Mathematics score at Level 3 (Calculus, Statistics, Computer Science), or pass the District High School Mathematics Competency Examination with a minimum combined score of 80% correct.

Record Keeping: Guidance Counselors will track students' reaching of graduation requirements and inform department heads of the appropriate disciplines of students who have not yet passed the requirements.